



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**CYPRUS**

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## **SAVE Grant Generates Student Excitement AND Clean Energy!**

Within days of being awarded a SAVE small grant and over a school holiday, the Clean Energy Group—a band of dedicated vocational high-school students and their teachers—immediately started work on constructing a model power system for their workshop in a rundown Nicosia vocational secondary school. The system will generate electricity using only wind and solar energy and is providing the students and teachers with a hands-on experience in the installation and application of these new technologies. Not only has the project motivated the students, but it has drawn attention to the school's exemplary efforts to promote viable clean and sustainable energy alternatives in a place where water and power shortages are chronic.



*Supported by SAVE, this activity is important not only because it is supporting a local youth initiative in energy conservation, but also because it demonstrates how alternative, environmentally-friendly energy sources are accessible, available and appropriate to Cypriot conditions.*

## **ACT's Bicommunal Film Festival Tours Cyprus**



*All young finalists receiving a certificate for their participation in the competition*

The Shooting Reality Film Festival went on the road this week, bringing the youth film series to Nicosia and Famagusta, the first two stops on an island-wide tour. The short films, which were produced as part of the UNDP-ACT bicommunal Young Filmmakers' Competition, debuted in October at the Ledra Palace in the UN Buffer Zone for an audience of friends and family of the filmmakers as well as the diplomatic and international communities. The festival is now touring both of the island's communities with Greek, Turkish and English subtitled films.

*The mission of USAID/Cyprus is to encourage cooperation between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot individuals and organizations to reduce tensions and promote a climate that will foster reconciliation and a durable peace settlement.*

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*SAVE*

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25 GIS engineers and technicians completed the two-day "Introduction to ArcGIS 1" training course offered the week of 2/11 by SAVE in support of its GIS work. SAVE's Groundwater Management Training of Trainers program in Austin and Denver gave eight TCs the opportunity to see the application of the latest water modeling and water quality techniques. This group will now put this experience to use, including through the training of others. Work continues on the design of a much-needed sewerage network for the Lapta/Lapithos region, through which a team of TCs is being trained not just on design, but also on the preparation of EU-ready tender dossiers. Skills that are critical to the TCs if they are to access the EU-funding that is available for infrastructure projects.

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*ACT*

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The Cypriot Civil Society Strengthening Program training courses continued with the "Strategic Thinking and Planning in Civil Society Organizations" training taking place in both Famagusta (in Turkish) and Agros (in Greek) on 15-16 February. The aim of the course is to enable participants to respond to changing circumstances and to make choices with a longer-term perspective and understand the strategic planning process. Meetings were held to review cost estimates of the restoration work at the Armenian Church and Monastery. A meeting with the Armenian stakeholders will be held on Friday, 22 February to share ideas and receive feedback.

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*EDGE*

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Supported by EDGE, the Cyprus Turkish Chamber of Industry and several TC firms attended the Fruit Logistica Fair in Berlin, returning having made both business contacts and lucrative citrus deals. On 2/13, EDGE organized a workshop on international best practices in organizational management for over twenty participants from different Cypriot business associations. As part of the event, EDGE distributed a Business Association Development Guidebook, available in both English and Turkish. According to the event evaluation, 95% of participants felt the session was "very useful" in developing their organizational management skills. Commercial banking expert Kent McNeill was asked to travel to Kosovo to assist the EMSG project implement the EDGE training model for their program. On 2/14, outgoing COP Bryan Stirewalt provided DCM Zimmerman, Embassy Nicosia colleagues and USAID/Cyprus with a briefing on EDGE progress and, on 2/19, he had an outbrief with Ambassador Schlicher.

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*REAP*

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REAP finalized its report on rationalizing connection charges for connecting to the electricity utility's network either as a generator or a consumer of electricity. Equipment installations also continued, increasing the number of SMEs employing energy efficient technologies and approaches and the number of demonstration sites.

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## News from Nicosia

### February 17

Results of the February 17th first round of presidential elections were a surprise with President Papadopoulos not mustering enough votes to make it to the second round. Center right Euro MP Ioannis Kassoulides will face Speaker of Parliament and General Secretary of the Communist Party, Demetris Christofias, in the run-off. The first-round results were viewed, in part, as a sign of dissatisfaction with the lack of progress on the Cyprus problem under President Papadopoulos. With a change in the Presidential palace now imminent, the international community is gearing up to re-evaluate the conditions for a new round of settlement talks under the auspices of the UN.

### February 21

USAID/Cyprus participated in the U.S. Embassy Nicosia's Mission Strategic Plan off-site retreat

### February 24

Round 2 of Greek Cypriot Presidential Elections

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## Our Projects

- The **Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT)** program mainstreams the concepts of conflict resolution in over 120 projects that encourage Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work on issues of common concern and solve problems together. Projects are currently underway in the areas of youth, education and tolerance, civil society strengthening, sustainable development and cultural heritage preservation. ACT is funded through a cooperative agreement between USAID and the UN Development Program (UNDP).
- The **Cyprus Partnership for Economic Growth (CyPEG)** includes activities that support economic growth in the Turkish Cypriot community to decrease the disparities between the communities and promote reconciliation. CyPEG is implemented by U.S. contractors under different USAID contract mechanisms.
  - The objective of the **Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises (EDGE)** project is to strengthen the domestic and international competitiveness of Turkish-Cypriot small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and help restructure the financial sector so that SMEs can thrive.
  - The **Resource Efficiency Achievement Program (REAP)** promotes more efficient use of water and energy by conducting audits and upgrades of representative business establishments and households. REAP also provides technical assistance to Turkish Cypriot energy experts.
  - The **Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE)** project focuses on improving (1) the competitiveness, financial status, and quality of basic services and infrastructure to more easily meet international and EU standards and (2) Turkish Cypriot capacity to manage natural and cultural resources for economic growth.